GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1721
ANSWERED ON:03.12.2014
TELECOM FACILITIES UNDER BHARAT NIRMAN
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Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the salient features of the Bharat Nirman programme;

(b) the targets set for rural tele-density and broadband coverage for village panchayats and the current status thereof;

(c) whether any of the set targets were not realised, if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(d) the funds allocated, released and utilised under Bharat Nirman-II during the last three years and the current year, Statewise?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)

(a) Bharat Nirman was launched in 2005 by Government in recognition of the role played by infrastructure in poverty removal. The first half of the programme was in the Tenth Plan period and the second half was implemented in the first two years of the Eleventh Plan period (2007−12). The six components included under the programme are irrigation, drinking water, electrification, roads, housing, and rural telephony.

The objective of the Bharat Nirman Programme was to implement rural infrastructure schemes of Government in a time-bound manner.

(b) to (d) The target set for rural teledensity under the Bharat Nirman Programme was 40% by 2014 and broadband coverage to all 2,50,000 villages panchayats.

As on 30.03.2014, the rural teledensity was 43.96% thereby achieving the target set in Bharat Nirman.

Government is implementing National Optical Fibre Network (NOFN) project to provide broadband connectivity through Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) to all Gram Panchayats in the country (approximately 2,50,000 Gram Panchayats) at an estimated cost of Rs. 20,100 Crore by bridging the connectivity gap between Gram Panchayats and Blocks. Under this project, at least 100 Mbps (megabits per second) bandwidth would be made available at each Gram Panchayat (GP) to be used by all the service providers on non-discriminatory basis. Bharat Broadband Network Limited (BBNL), Central Public Sector Undertaking Unit (CPSU) has been created to execute the project. Work is being implemented by BBNL through 3 Central Public Sector Undertaking Units (CPSUs) viz. Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL), Railtel and Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (PGCIL).

The scheme to connect all the gram panchayats with respective blocks through OFC is envisaged to be completed in a phased manner by December 2016.

Under National Optical Fibre Network (NOFN), the funds are disbursed to the implementing agencies and not to specific States. Details of fund disbursed to implementing agencies in the last two years and the current year is as below:

Year	Funds disbursed (in Rs. Cr.)
2012-13	405
2013-14	514
2014-15 (till 31.10.2014)	1091